

4/23/8

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 ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-15	CIAE-00	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	SSO-00	HA-06	PM-09	PA-01	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-01
	ICAE-00	SP-02	SPRS-02	/069 W			

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O 232101Z APR 81
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9280

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2973

E.O. 12065: GDS 4/23/87 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P
 TAGS: SHUM, AR
 SUBJECT: BRIEF DETENTION OF AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS

1. (U) FOUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED TODAY WHILE COVERING ONE OF THE PERIODIC GATHERINGS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS IN THE BUENOS AIRES SQUARE THAT GAVE THE ORGANIZATION ITS NAME. ARRESTED WERE NEW YORK TIMES SOUTH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT EDWARD SCHUMACHER AND HIS WIFE WHO IS A STRINGER FOR THE TIMES; LIFE MAGAZINE REPORTED STEVEN ROBERTSON; AND LIFE PHOTOGRAPHER SUSAN MEISELLER (THE LIFE JOURNALISTS ARE IN ARGENTINA ON A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT).

2. (U) ACCORDING TO AN EYEWITNESS THE FOUR WERE DETAINED WHILE PHOTOGRAPHING AND INTERVIEWING THE MOTHERS AND THE POLICE WHO WERE IN THE AREA. THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE LOCAL STATIONHOUSE AND THEN RELEASED. NONE OF THE MOTHERS WAS ARRESTED AND THEY WERE REPORTEDLY DISPERSING WHEN THESE ARRESTS WERE MADE.

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: FOLLOWING THE ARRESTS GENERAL RAUL ORTIZ, THE SPOKESMAN FOR PRESIDENT VIOLA CALLED THE EMBASSY TO STATE THAT THE FOUR WERE ARRESTED BECAUSE THEIR CREDENTIALS WERE OUT OF DATE AND TO ASSURE

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THE EMBASSY THAT THE FOUR HAD BEEN RELEASED.
 ORTIZ'S UNUSUAL CALL INDICATES HOW SENSITIVE VIOLA

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
 U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
 Margaret P. Gafeld, Director
 Exemption(s):
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
 Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
 Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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IS TO THE OBVIOUSLY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS
IMPLICATIONS OF THESE ARRESTS, PARTICULARLY ON U.S. -
ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

4. [REDACTED] ONE EYEWITNESS ASSERTS THAT THE FOUR AMERICAN
REPORTERS WERE BEING PARTICULARLY AGGRESSIVE IN
COVERING THE DEMONSTRATION AND THEIR ACTIVITIES
ANNOYED AN ALREADY NERVOUS POLICE CONTINGENT. BE
THAT AS IT MAY, THESE ARRESTS COME AS A CURTAIN RAISER
TO NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULED LARGE DEMONSTRATION IN THE
SQUARE BY THE MOTHERS, WHICH THE POLICE HAVE ALREADY
SAID IS NOT AUTHORIZED (SEPTTEL).
SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]

NVVZCZ

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